



The Bulletin

Published by the Society of the New York Hospital

Vol. 2.

DECEMBER 1936

Issue 8

- 147 YEARS AGO -

At a Meeting of the Governors of the Hospital held at the Coffee House in the City of New York on Monday the 7th Day of December 1789—

John Lawrence produced to the Board a Receipt from the Treasurer for the Sum of twenty-four Pounds six Shillings and seven Pence being the Amount due from him to the Society.—

The Committee appointed at the last Meeting of the Board, made a written Report which was read; thereupon, ordered that John Murray, Jacob Watson, John Lawrence and Lawrence Embree be a Committee to procure the Repairs, furniture and Bedsted and Bedding, mentioned in the said Report; and have the same completed with such dispatch as they shall think proper; and that they advise with such persons as they shall think proper in the Business.—

Ordered that William Maxwell, William Edgar and Samson Fleming be a Committee to audit all accounts against the Society until the next Annual Election.—

The Committee appointed to Audit Accounts against the Society reported that an account of Lawrence Embree for expenditures and materials in repairing the Hospital amounting to seventeen Pounds six Shillings and nine Pence appears to be just. Ordered that the Treasurer pay the same.—

CORNELL UNIVERSITY MEDICAL RESEARCH SOCIETY

The fourth meeting of the Society for the year 1936-37 will be held in the Auditorium of the Medical College, 1300 York Avenue, on Monday evening, January 11th, at 8:15 p.m.

Program:

- I. A new Conception of the Mechanics and Physiology of Cough. Dr. Pol N. Coryllos.

II. Carcinoma Involving the Duodenum.

Dr. Sydney Weintraub and Dr. Allan Tuggle.

III. A Critique of Results of B. C. G. Immunization against Tuberculosis with Special Reference to Results Obtained in New York City.

Dr. Milton I. Levine.

N. B. It is requested that, if possible, discussions be limited to three minutes.

Dr. J. M. Neill
Chairman

Herbert F. Traut
Secretary

DISTRIBUTION

The Bulletin is distributed from the following points: the Dining Rooms and Cafeterias (not including the O.P.D. Lunch Counter); the Nurses Residence Lobby; the Hospital Gift Shop; the Doctors Cloak Room, F-129; the Payne Whitney Psychiatric Clinic; Westchester Division.

EXTRA COPIES

Those wishing extra copies of The Bulletin may obtain them by applying at the office of the Secretary, G-111.

PORTRAITS

GERARD WALTON

Sixth President

Of the early Presidents of the Society of the New York Hospital, Gerard Walton, sixth to hold that office, appears to have left the least tangible record of his life. We may surely assume from such facts as are known, that his was a prominent position in the New York of those days and that his career marched with those of his contemporaries whose lives have been more fully chronicled and recorded.

It has come down to us that he was born in New York about the year 1741, his parents being Jacob and Martha (Beekman) Walton, members of families prominent in the life of the Colony. (It is interesting to note, parenthetically, how often the name Beekman occurs in the long roster of Governors of the Society, either as a Christian or a surname.) Such a background places him socially and politically. Like many others of a similar station in life, he was a Tory, although there is no record of his participating in the Revolution in any way, devoting himself, it would seem, to his occupation of merchant. When he died, he made particular mention in his will of his guns and fishing tackle, the only key we have to the tastes and character of the man.

In his portrait, which hangs in the present Board Room above that of John Watts, the first president of the Board, we see a typical man of the times and one who may well have whipped streams and pools or ranged through woods and marshes of Manhattan, which now are mazes of stone and concrete, in search of trout or pheasant, pike or grouse.

The rest of the picture we must trace through the Minutes of the Board of Governors and search for the name of Gerard Walton in the yellow pages filled with fragile, graceful script of another day.

Unlike his predecessors, Gerard Walton had been neither member nor Governor through the difficult Revolutionary years, and those of the Reconstruction. The Hospital buildings had slowly been put in a state of repair and funds had been obtained when the Board, at its meeting of May 19th, 1789, elected him member of the Society and a Governor. At the same meeting it was announced that Samuel Jones and George Bowne had waited on Governor

Clinton at Albany, who delivered to them the original charter and seal of the Corporation, lost during the Revolution.

How these objects came into Clinton's possession is not known, as the minutes only state that the Governor informed Jones and Bowne "that the Charter and Seal were delivered to him by some person whose name he does not recollect soon after the evacuation of this City by the British troops". The Charter and Seal exists to this day, the latter still being in use in the offices of the Corporation. At the same time was reported the recovery of the deeds to the property on which the Hospital stood. So when Walton was formally qualified as Governor of the Society the buildings were at least usable and the basic documents by virtue of which the Society existed and laid claim to its premises were in its possession.

During his early years of Governorship, we do not find Mr. Walton's name in any outstanding connection, but by noting his regular attendance we may assume that he was educating himself in the various problems of the Society. Through this period further funds were being raised, a tentative staff assembled and the Hospital equipped so that on January 27th, 1791, the Governors were able to announce in "The New York Packet" that "preparation had been made for the reception and entertainment of patients".

It is interesting to note that those seeking admission were directed to appear before some member of the Board, who would "in all proper cases, give letters of recommendation". But the formal opening did not take place until June 3rd, 1791, when some eighteen patients were admitted.

In 1794, Isaac Roosevelt announced his intention of retiring from the Presidency of the Board, and on May 20, 1794, Theophylact Bache, Vice President, was elected in his place. The Vice Presidency then fell, not to one of those whose membership dated back before the Revolution, but to Gerard Walton, whose faithful attendance must have been more fruitful than the bare minutes show.

As Vice-President we find Gerard Walton taking a far more prominent part in the life of the Society. Indeed, we find him presiding at many Board meetings in the absence of the President, Mr. Bache. These were busy days for the Hospital.

The first By-Laws were adopted at the meeting following that of Mr. Walton's induction into the office of Vice-President; a full set of rules governing the conduct of the Hospital were drawn up and formally adopted and a plan was drawn up for the teaching of Clinical Surgery in the wards of the Hospital to the students of Columbia University.

A major problem in public health was faced in the annual outbreaks of yellow fever which was particularly prevalent during the period from 1791 to its peak in 1798 when, out of a population of about fifty thousand souls over fifteen hundred died from that epidemic alone. Dr. Valentine Seaman, Attending Surgeon, made exhaustive studies of this which he published in 1797 and which led to his discovery of the source, though not the carrier of the disease.

To supplement the none too strong finances of the Society various appeals were made to the State Legislature and to the various Wards of the City, Mr. Walton being assigned to the Fifth Ward, together with Jacob Watson, Gilbert C. Willett and John Murray, Jr. This appeal to the Wards was a disappointment as the year 1794 produced only £102 and 1795 £240-13s-8d. Appeals to the Legislature were more fruitful as in 1795 an annual grant of £4,000 for five years was authorized. Another appeal, signed by President Bache, was delivered to the Legislature by Gerard Walton as Chairman of a Committee of five and produced a further annual grant of £1,000 for four years.

1795 saw the establishment of a Medical Library in the Hospital, and the following year a grant of \$500 was made by the Board for the purchase of books. This collection was augmented by gifts of books from members of the Faculty of Columbia and sums of money from the fees which they received from their teaching activities.

The importance of this modest beginning cannot be over emphasized, as for many years the Hospital Library was the only public library in the city devoted to medical and surgical literature. This great establishment continued in existence until 1898 when the Governors donated the entire collection of over twenty-three thousand volumes to the New York Academy of Medicine.

On May 16, 1797, the Governors assembled at the Hospital, faced with the task of

finding a successor for Theophylact Baché who had announced his intention of retiring after distinguished service as Governor, Vice-President and President, covering the years from 1784 to 1797. The choice of the Board fell upon Gerard Walton, who was duly sworn in as President, with Matthew Clarkson, a soldier of the Revolution, as Vice-President. The results of the first year of Mr. Walton's presidency was summarized in the Annual Report published by the Society. No reports appear to have been published from 1798 until 1809, but from 1810 on the sequence is unbroken.

The first report notes a professional staff of ten, among whom we note Drs. Hosack, Mitchell, Valentine Seaman and Wright Post.

The abstract of Accounts, reckoned in pounds, shillings and pence, shows a cash balance of £1,365, 14s, 7½d, although it is not indicated whether or not this sum is unencumbered. Among expenditures are such items as:

	£	s	d
Wines and Spirits....	294	11	6
Medicines, Limes etc....	343	11	3
Books	77	4	11

Receipts include:

Two cows and a calf..	15	0	0
Fat	1	7	8
C. Miller, Harbor Master,			
for fines.....	80	0	0

Patients treated totalled five hundred and seventy-eight, with "Ulcers", "Febris Intermit" and "Pneumonia" furnishing the bulk of material. Seamen must have formed a fair percentage of patients, as 165 Irish head the list of foreign born, with only 240 natives.

Two years later Gerard Walton resigned as President, his place being taken by Matthew Clarkson. During his term of service, the Hospital had finally taken its place in the life of the community, a notable staff was assembled and countless difficulties settled.

In all of this Mr. Walton played an honorable and selfless part. It is greatly to be regretted that more is not known of him and that we may only trace his life through that of the Society and that we know nothing of him from his resignation in 1799 to his death in 1821.

A NEW PUBLICATION

"The Quarterly," official organ of the Cornell University Medical College Alumni Association, Incorporated, made its first appearance early in the month of December.

This publication carries news items and notices important to the Alumni body, and should play an important role in the life of that group.

Among the items published is a list of opportunities in the professional field which have been reported to the Alumni office.

By arrangement with the officers of the Alumni Association, the Bulletin will reprint such information each month.

Further details may be obtained from the Alumni Office, Room F110.

Permanent and full time insurance work entailing travel.

Industrial medicine, full time position with an established concern.

Place for practice in Pennsylvania and offer of house and office set-up, very reasonably priced, with apartments that can be rented for income.

Place for practice in New York State with office set-up and overhead taken care of and under supervision of established practitioner.

Exchange of practice in New York for same in Florida six winter months.

Director of Medical Center in Far East. Surgeon for a gold mine in Ecuador.

Public Health Work in New York State. Physician in charge of small hospital in New Jersey.

Examiner in large railroad station in New York, N. Y.

Residency in surgery at upstate New York Hospital.

Resident Physician at boys' club.
Assistant Pathologist in Shanghai.
Six months residency in rural sections.
Fellowship in Neurological Surgery.
Place for two physicians to practice in Virginia.

Two residencies in Private Pavilions (medical and surgical).

Resident Physician in small hospital in New Jersey (woman).

Resident interne at Yonkers.
Physician for tuberculosis work.

Pathological residency.

Residency for one interested in Hospital Administration.

Six resident physicians wanted in and around New York City, X-ray, and therapy, Tumor and cancer.

Fellowship for one year for post-graduate work in medical sciences (woman).

NOTICE

The Hospital Administration has announced that the following holidays will be observed during the year 1937:

New Year's Day.

Lincoln's Birthday.

Washington's Birthday.

Memorial Day.

The Fourth of July.

Labor Day

Columbus Day.

Thanksgiving Day.

Christmas Day.

—o—

THE GIFT SHOP

The Hospital Gift Shop wishes to say a word of thanks to one and all for their kind support. Personnel, patients, visitors, and friends have continued to manifest an interest in the shop, and have crystallized this interest by an active support. The Committee appreciates this generous co-operation.

The Hospital Gift Shop organized and conducted by the Social Service Committee, with the sanction and active support of the Board of Governors, is run primarily to obtain funds to enable the Social Service Committee to continue to help the worthy poor and sick of our own Hospital.

The Hospital Gift Shop Committee runs the shop, and after necessary expenses are paid, the remaining funds are turned over to the Social Service Committee.

Buy at the Gift Shop and encourage and aid a worthy cause.

THE CORRECT NAME

Both the New York Hospital and Cornell University Medical College are in danger of being injured by popularization of the term "Cornell Medical Center." There is no such institution as "Cornell Medical Center" and under existing laws there is grave danger that a bequest to the "center" could not be collected either by the Hospital or by the College. Each institution should be referred to by its proper name.

The following is a schedule of the different Out Patient Clinics as of January 1st, 1937.

Main Out Patient Admitting Office:—516 East 70th Street is open daily from 8:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., Saturdays 8:30 until 12:00
 Pediatric Clinic Admitting Office:—530 East 70th Street, open daily 8:30 to 4:30, Saturdays until 12. Women's Clinic Admitting
 Office:— 540 East 70th Street, open daily 8:30 until 4 P.M., Saturdays until 12. Psychiatry Clinic Admitting Office:—530 East 68th
 Street, 1:30 to 2:30 daily, Saturdays, 9 to 10 A.M.

ALL CLINIC DEPARTMENTS ARE CLOSED SUNDAYS and SATURDAY AFTERNOONS

Clinic Dep't	Days and Hours	Clinic Aide	Phone Extens.	Tube No.
Allergy	Every Day, P.M.	K-405	7517	41
Arthritis	Every Day, P.M.; Wed., Fri., A.M.	K-405	7421	41
Cardiac and Circul.	Monday and Friday, P.M.	K-105	585	19
Dermatology	Every Day, P.M.	L-405	7718	49
Diabetes and Obesity	Monday, Wednesday and Friday, A.M.	K-205	621	45
Gastro-Intestinal	Every Day, A.M.	K-205	418	45
General Medicine	Every Day, P.M.	K-205	418	45
General Medicine	Every Day, A.M. and P.M. (except Saturday)	K-305	331	43
Medicine L (Syphilis)	Every Day, A.M. (except Saturday)	L-405	7718	49
Hematology	Tuesday, P.M.	K-405	7517	41
Neurology	Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, P.M.	K-105	585	19
Pulmonary	Tues., Thurs. and Sat., A.M., Every Day, P.M.	K-505	7327	39
Thyroid-Endocrine	Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, A.M.	K-205	621	45
General Surgery	Every Day, A.M. and P.M.	K-505	7012	39
Plastic Surgery	Tuesday and Friday, A.M.	K-505	7012	39
Minor Surgery	Every Day, A.M. and P.M.	K-605	7613	44
Impotence	Wednesday, A.M.	K-605	7613	44
Orthopedic	Every Day, P.M.	K-705	7821	42
Fractures	Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, A.M.	K-705	7821	42
Peripheral Vasc.	Monday, Wednesday and Friday, P.M.	K-605	7613	44
Varicose Vein	Monday and Thursday, A.M.	K-505	7012	39
Ear, Nose and Throat	Every Day, P.M.	F-813	7837	40
Eye	Every Day, P.M.	K-806	7023	40
Dental	Every Day, P.M. (By Refer. Only)	F-832	7638	15
Urology	Every Day, A.M. and P.M.	K-905	324	38
Urology (Sterility)	Wednesday, A.M.	K-905	324	38
WOMEN'S CLINIC				
Antenatal	Every A.M. except Friday	M-SB	688	72
Post Partum	Every P.M. except Monday	M-SB	288	72
Gynecology	Friday, A.M., Every P.M. except Monday	M-SB	288	72
CHILDREN'S CLINIC				
General Pediatrics	Every Day, A.M.	N-B	7487	67
		N-I	388	65
Allergy	Tuesday and Thursday, P.M.	N-I	388	65
Cardiac	Monday, P.M., Saturday, A.M.	N-I	388	65
Luetic	Monday, P.M.	N-I	388	65
Endocrine Metabolism	Thursday, P.M.	N-I	388	65
Well Baby	Wednesday, P.M.	N-B	7487	67
Toxoid	Friday, P.M.	N-I	388	65
Psychiatry	Every Day, A.M. and P.M.	P-065	494	37